



# Montana Nurses' Association

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BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
EXHIBIT No. 4

DATE 3-20-07  
STURDEVANT HB 496

## HOUSE BILL 496 – TESTIMONY OF BECKY STURDEVANT ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE March 20, 2007

“An act allowing advanced Practice Registered Nurses to complete medical exams required by traffic laws..”

Madam Chair, members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Becky Sturdevant and I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse from Kalispell and I'm here today representing the Montana Nurses Association in strong support of House Bill 496.

Advanced practice registered nurses are providing more and more of the primary care in Montana. These skilled professionals tend to see the elderly, disabled, rural residents and those with limited funds. APRNs are the primary care providers for increasing numbers of Montanans.

Our program has a class devoted specifically to assessing older drivers with objective measurements of abilities needed to drive, as well as assessments for those with physical limitations and adaptive equipment for these individuals. Nurse practitioners make such assessments frequently and conscientiously.

We believe that requiring these drivers to seek an examination with a physician can result in an increased expense of having to participate in an extra visit to what might be a new health care provider for such individuals. This new provider may not know the individual well enough to recognize minor changes in function which could either result in a capable driver not being given the medical permission to drive, or perhaps one who shouldn't drive being given authority to obtain a license

We also believe that requiring such individuals to obtain exams only from a physician can result in an unnecessary expense and loss of time in traveling from a rural community to see a physician. Permitting people to see their usual provider can prevent this unnecessary travel expense and ultimately increases access to quality care for all Montanans.

A driver license is especially precious in this large state. When seeing their usual provider, people can be forewarned of their decreasing abilities and aided to seek an alternate means of transportation.

**We believe that House Bill 496 is an important step in helping to better serve the citizens of our state and we encourage you to give it your support.**

Thank You for Your Service

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Sturdevant, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse